

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend claims 1, 8 and 12, without prejudice or disclaimer.
2. Cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.
3. Add new claims 34 and 35.
4. Respectfully traverse all objections and rejections.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

The drawings stand objected-to as not including reference numeral “22d,” which appears in the specification. Claims 1, 2 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,805,437). Further, Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,805,437) in view of Yoshida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,783,215). All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons. Without acquiescing in the objection or the rejections, the specification has been amended, claims 1, 8 and 12 have been amended, claim 2 has been canceled, and new claims 34 and 35 have been added. The following discussion is directed to the claims in their current form.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, the reference to “22d” in the specification appears to be a typographical error. The reference to “22d” should have referred to “22c.” Thus, the specification has been amended to replace “22d” with “22c.”

With respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamanaka does not disclose the recited feature of “an air supply section via which the ink tank communicates with an atmosphere external to the ink tank.” Yamanaka discloses air introducing needle 205b. However, Applicants respectfully submit that air introducing needle 205b does not correspond to the recited air supply section. Between the air introducing needle 205b and the external air are a

liquid path 205e, a buffer chamber 205f and an air communicating aperture 205g (see column 13, lines 18-22). For example, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 of Yamanaka, the air introducing needle 205b is always filled with ink. Fig. 3 shows a normal state capable of ink supply from the main tank 205 to the recording head 201, and the front end 209a of the ink is at the atmospheric pressure (see column 14, lines 28-36). Main tank 204 in Yamanaka therefore does not communicate with the external atmosphere. Thus, the air introducing needle 205b of Yamanaka does not correspond to "an air supply section via which the ink tank communicates with an atmosphere external to the ink tank," as recited in claim 1. Yamanaka therefore does not disclose an ink supply device comprising an ink tank and a tank holder configured to hold the ink tank in a detachable manner, wherein the tank holder comprises an air supply section via which the ink tank communicates with an atmosphere external to the ink tank. Accordingly, Yamanaka does not anticipate claim 1.

With respect to claim 8, the rejection contends that claim 8 is obvious over the combination of Yamanaka and Yoshida. However, claim 8 depends from claim 1 and therefore distinguishes over Yamanaka for at least the same reason as claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Yoshida does not compensate for the deficiency of Yamanaka. Accordingly, the proposed combination of Yamanaka and Yoshida, does not disclose each recited feature of claim 8 and therefore does not render claim 8 obvious.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

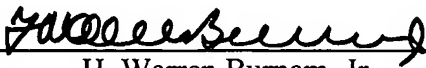
The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

YOSHIMURA ET AL.
Appl. No. 10/550,275
January 7, 2008

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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